

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 EB-11

COME-00 SCEM-02 INT-08 OMB-01 SCI-06 DRC-01 /196 W

----- 095664

R 111120Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2270

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 13703

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR US EEC IT XF

SUBJECT: US SEEN AS PLOTTING AGAINST EUROPE THROUGH OIL CRISIS

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

LONDON FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

REF: ROME 13573 (NOTAL)

1. REFTEL (BEING REPEATED ALL ADDRESSEES) REPORTS RISING TIDE  
OF SPECULATION IN ITALIAN PRESS AND BUSINESS OPINION WHICH  
IDENTIFIES US AS "FOREIGN DEVIL" BEHIND OIL CRISIS WHICH ALLEGEDLY  
BEING USED AGAINST EUROPE FOR US BENEFIT. THIS CONSPIRACY THEORY  
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HAS BEEN GAINING CURRENCY IN RECENT DAYS, SPARKED BY INCREASINGLY-

FELT HARDSHIPS CAUSED BY ITALIAN AUSTERITY PROGRAM. IT WAS ALSO TROTTED OUT FOLLOWING VISITS HERE LAST WEEK OF SAUDI AND TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTERS, BOTH OF WHOM URGED IN THEIR PUBLIC UTTERANCES CLOSER AND MORE DIRECT EUROPEAN-ARAB COOPERATION IN OIL AND OTHER ECONOMIC FIELDS.

2. VARIOUS THEMES BEING PLAYED IN CONSPIRACY THEORY ARE US-SAUDI COLLUSION TO PARALYZE EUROPEAN ECONOMY SO US CAN TAKE OVER EUROPEAN MARKETS, US USE OF INTERNATIONAL OIL COMPANIES TO ACCOMPLISH SIMILAR AIM OF THROTTLING EUROPEAN COMPETITION, AND US EFFORTS TO MAKE EUROPEANS SEE ENERGY CRISIS IN CONTEXT OF NATO SOLIDARITY TO PREVENT EUROPEANS FROM ESTABLISHING EUROPEAN ENERGY POLICY DIRECTLY TIED TO ARABS. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN HEARING ECHOES OF THESE THEMES FROM HIGH LEVEL ITALIAN OFFICIALS. OVER THE PAST WEEKEND, PRIME MINISTER RUMOR APPEALED DIRECTLY TO AMBASSADOR TO INTERVENE WITH SEVERAL MAJOR US OIL COMPANIES WHICH RUMOR SAID WERE BUYING UP ITALIAN FUEL SUPPLIES. RUMOR'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR LAST WEEK URGED THAT US AT NATO MINISTERIAL OFFER TO HELP "FOUR OR FIVE" EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ON OIL SUPPLY QUESTION TO PREVENT THEIR CAPITULATION TO ARAB DEMANDS. DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR PAINTED STARK PICTURE OF DOMESTIC UNREST SHOULD OIL CRISIS PERSIST IN ITALY. FOREIGN MINISTER MORO'S CHEF DE CABINET SPOKE WITH DCM ABOUT ALLEGED PLOT AGAINST EUROPE AS ILLUSTRATIVE OF PANICKY THINKING AND SCAPEGOAT-SEEKING PRESENTLY GOING ON IN SOME ITALIAN CIRCLES.

3. ALTHOUGH LEFTIST PRESS HAS BEEN EDITORIALIZING ALONG THESE LINES FOR A NUMBER OF WEEKS, ESPOUSAL OF US CONSPIRACY THEORY BY RESPONSIBLE AND SERIOUS ECONOMIC PRESS AND BUSINESS FIGURES MAKES SUCH ALLEGATIONS A MUCH MORE SERIOUS MATTER. DEPARTMENT IS ALREADY FULLY AWARE OF DEP APPREHENSIONS OF ITALIANS AND OTHER EUROPEANS ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF ECONOMIC COLLAPSE SHOULD OIL SHORTAGE PERSIST. ITALIANS ARE PARTICULARLY AGITATED BY THEIR EXTREME VULNERABILITY ON OIL SUPPLY, AND ADDITIONAL THREAT THAT DOMINO-STYLE DEPRESSION IN EUROPE WOULD BRING A FLOOD OF ITALIAN IMMIGRANT WORKERS BACK TO AN ITALY ALREADY IN ECONOMIC STRAITS.

4. FOR THE MOMENT THE CONSPIRACY THEORY IS PRESS TALK. IF THIS OIL SITUATION IMPROVES IN THE NEXT MONTH THIS KIND OF TALK WILL PROBABLY EVAPORATE. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF THE SUPPLIES

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DIMINISH AND UNEMPLOYMENT RESULTS THIS THEORY COULD TAKE HOLD WITH THE PUBLIC. IN ANY CASE WE WISH TO FLAG IT AS A POSSIBLY SERIOUS DEVELOPMENT. VOLPE

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED USINT CAIRO.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PETROLEUM, SUPPLIES, PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, TRADE CONTROLS, ECONOMIC WARFARE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 DEC 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** hilburpw  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 3  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review History:** RELEASED <18-Sep-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <01-Oct-2001 by hilburpw>  
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30 JUN 2005

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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** US SEEN AS PLOTTING AGAINST EUROPE THROUGH OIL CRISIS DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO  
**TAGS:** PFOR, ENRG, US, IT, XF, EEC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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